

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting

April 12, 2021 - 05:00 PM

Online Meeting

Members: Hannah Jenkins, Max Dalton, Indigo Davitt- Liu, Meron Demissie, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld, Divine Islam, Mathew Douglas-May, Sandy Fazeli, Lauren Fleming, Maddie Henderson, LesLee Jackson, Anna Johnson, Toya Lopez, Barbara Lunde, Nicholas Minderman, Erin Niehoff, Suzanne Savanick Hansen, Jaqueline Zepeda (Quorum - 10)

Staff: Kim W. Havey, Bjorn Olson

Guests: Hannah Bohn, Cody Fischer, Katie Jones, Ofelie Eshalie, Tashawna Williams

Call to Order

1. Roll Call.

Roll was called, quorum present.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Lauren Fleming made a motion to include Cody and Katie Van Buren development to the discussion section and accept minutes. Motion passes.

3. Acceptance of minutes

[March 15, 2021, Community Environmental Advisory Commission](#)

Consent

Location: Online Meeting, Dial-In Number: 612-276-6670 Phone Conference ID: 542 754 051#

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community.

BIPOCI language will be updated and included next month.

Erin Niehoff noted April is Deaf History month.

May 5th is Missing and Murdered Indigenous People's Day at the State Capitol.

North Hennepin Community College is hosting a BIPOC Stages of Equity Festival, April 28-30.

More information is available at NHCCfinearts.org

Presentations:

Hannah Jenkins, Minnesota WasteWise Foundation – Reducing Single Use Plastics

There are grant programs to cover recycling expenses but no unified effort to engage the restaurant business. WasteWise has an initiative to design, build, and implement a restaurant plastics reduction campaign. The campaign is based on the GreenStep Cities model and will spend the first year researching and developing implementation plans followed by participation from 100 businesses participate over years 2 and 3.

If there are any suggestions or for ways to help, please contact hbohn@mnchamber.com

Questions:

Minneapolis has a green to-go policy but with a flaw regarding black plastic. Would policy be developed to reduce the use of black plastic for takeout? How many other cities in the Metro have that policy?

Black plastic can be addressed in this initiative to inform cities interested in reduction. St. Louis Park and Minneapolis have restaurant packaging policies and Edina is about to start a policy that requires all compostable packaging with no plastics.

What is the scope of the problem? How much plastic are we looking at?

Not sure, Hennepin County may have anecdotal info from waste sorts.

Will there be recognition via signage or other that rewards/motivates businesses? Are there partners outside the restaurant business that would also apply? Cummins has a single-use plastics reduction initiative; the company may be interested in getting involved.

A list or recognition doesn't currently exist. WasteWise would be interested to gauge interest in other non-restaurant businesses.

Downstream impacts are important to consider as well. Are these materials able to be handled by facilities?

Yes

Has there been a conversation about film plastic recycling in food preparation?

No, but there may be opportunities to include this.

Will there be a program with Minneapolis public schools to gather their waste and compost food waste?

This program is focused on private businesses but there are opportunities with schools.

Kim recommended meeting with the Minneapolis HomeGrown Food Council. Minneapolis also has a zero waste by 2025 goal and plastics are a trouble point.

Any engagement with Mercado Central or the Karmel Mall?

Reached out to Mercado Central. Would like a connection to Karmel Mall.

Is messaging around health going to be included along with environment?

Health impacts of PFAs and micro plastics will be part of the educational campaign.

Friends of Lake Hiawatha are concerned about the level of plastics in the Lake and would like help trying to move the Park Board to deal with it.

Old Business

Approval of letter of support for decarb of lawn equipment

CEAC will brainstorm specific policy ideas to support and encourage and add them to the letter. An internal group at the City is convening around this as well as interest from Hennepin County, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Met Council.

The EcoAct required Commerce to identify efficient fuel-switching measures that identified small-powered equipment as possibilities. This could be useful to include.

The group recommended including noise pollution as an environmental issue as well.

Erin, Hannah, Meron, and Anna indicated interest in finalizing the letter.

A motion was made to approve the letter with changes of the Chairs and City of Minneapolis staff. Motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion:

Hiawatha Public Works Discussion on Mayoral Veto

The group questioned the grounds on which the Mayor vetoed the Hiawatha Public Works resolution under Council Action No. 2022A-0202. Anna and Sandy will draft a letter for next month in response.

635 Van Buren Project: Cody and Katie

A multi-family development emphasizing sustainable transportation and energy has been proposed for 635 Van Buren St. NE. The Planning Commission has rejected the project despite City staff support. The building will be 100% electric, reduce embodied carbon by 30%, use 75% less energy than code minimum (1/3 of which will come from rooftop solar), and will seek Passive House and Net-Zero Ready certification. Neighborhood engagement has been opposed to the project.

The developer is asking for CEAC support before the BHIZ Committee April 19th and the Council the following week.

If CEAC can do something, it would be based on focus on concept positions previously supported by the Commission, not in support of individual projects. If something the Planning Commission has done conflicts with a position CEAC has already taken, it would reinforce CEAC's position without favoritism. With the tight timeline, CEAC is unlikely to be able to respond this quickly. If members are interested in the project, they can engage the MN350 letter of support or Neighbors for Neighbors and express support as individuals but not on behalf of CEAC.

Open Streets registration

The Green Zone Summit will be held May 21st and billboard contest is up and running. CEAC can share promotional flyers, youth ages 15-18 in the Green Zones are eligible to compete.

Where to meet once we have in person meetings.

Beginning in May, there will no longer be a virtual meeting option. CEAC will meet in Room 132 City Hall for the May meeting.

Opportunities to support Hennepin County Sustainability efforts

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners and staff

- All City boards and commissions will begin meeting in person in May. There will not be a virtual option.
- The fair share science-based targets will be included in the Climate Action and Equity Plan for adoption when the plan is adopted.
- Minneapolis is collaborating with over 20 MN cities is pursuing [Better Buildings for MN](#), which is state legislation to update the building code so that it will provide a pathway to net zero energy for all buildings 50,000 SF and larger by 2036
- City Tree Program is taking orders for new trees to be distributed this Spring
- Applications are being taken now for the [Green Cost Share program](#)

Possible Future CEAC Meeting Topics:

- Climate Action and Equity Plan Steering Committee and Task Force opportunities
- Bikes, Scooters and Mobility Hubs: What's ahead for 2022? – Looking at a later CEAC meeting after final negotiations for the bikes and scooters contract is complete.
- Carbon Free Zones and fossil gas free development
- Sustainable building policies for City Financed economic development
- How to reduce plastic in the community?
- How do we reduce emissions from the HERC?

Adjournment

No opposition to adjournment

Notice:

A portion of this meeting may be closed to the public pursuant to MN Statutes Section 13D.03 or 13D.05.

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: May 17, 2022, from 5-7 PM

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadio aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.